

USSN 09/717,478
Anderson *et al.*
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

1. (Amended) A method for reading the surface of a test strip comprising an image, comprising:

scanning [the] a reader head in a reflectance reader of to a first position over the surface comprising the image;

determining a first amount of light reflected from the surface comprising the image;

illuminating the surface [for] with light of a first wavelength, and determining a second amount of light reflected from the surface;

illuminating the surface [for] with light of a second wavelength, and determining a third amount of light reflected from the surface; and

determining a parameter correlated with the intensity or shape of the image.

2. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the reader is a reflectance reader with a reader head that comprises:

a reader head body;
a light emitting diode;
a first fiberoptic bundle optically coupled to the light emitting diode;

a photodetector;
a second fiberoptic bundle optically coupled to the [light] photodetector;

an aperture in the reader head body; and
a plurality of fiberoptic conductor ends arranged in a sigmoidal distribution in the aperture, wherein: a first portion of the fiberoptic conductor ends [being of] comprises fiberoptic conductors of the first fiberoptic bundle[,]; and a second portion of the fiberoptic conductor ends [being of] comprises fiberoptic conductors of the second fiberoptic bundle.

USSN 09/717,478
Anderson *et al.*
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

5. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the reader is a reflectance reader, comprising:

a reader head comprising:

a reader head body;

a light emitting diode;

a first fiberoptic bundle optically coupled to the light emitting diode, and adapted to transmitting light [form] from the light emitting diode;

a photodetector adapted for generating a reflection signal in response to reflected light;

a second fiberoptic bundle optically coupled to the light photodetector, and adapted to transmit an amount of reflected light to the photodetector;

an aperture in the reader head body; and

a plurality of fiberoptic conductor ends arranged in a sigmoidal distribution in the aperture wherein: a first portion of the fiberoptic conductor ends [being of] comprises fiberoptic conductors of the first fiberoptic bundle[,]; and a second portion of the fiberoptic conductor ends [being of] comprises fiberoptic conductors of the second fiberoptic bundle, the plurality of fiberoptic conductor ends being further arranged in a substantially co-planar relationship; and a reader housing comprising:

a housing body; and

a cassette slot adapted to receive a test device.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein [illuminating with light of said first wavelength includes illuminating with light of said first wavelength, wherein] said first wavelength is selected to reflect substantially equally from all regions of the [immunoassay] test strip, whereby said second amount of light is indicative of [the immunoassay] a test [strip] region of test strip.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein [illuminating with light of said second wavelength includes illuminating with light of said second wavelength,